

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT DESIGNATED OFFICE (DO/US)
(National Phase of International App.: PCT/DE00/04299, W/O 01/39864 A1)

In re the
application of: **Wilhelm ARDES**

International Application No.: **PCT/DE00/04299**

International Filing Date: **01 December 2000**

U.S. Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **Herewith**

For: **FLUID FILTER WITH REMOVABLE
CENTRAL COMPONENT WITH ADDITIONAL
RETAINER**

Attorney Docket No.: **HHI-031US**

BOX PCT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please
amend the enclosed above-titled International patent application as follows.

In the Specification

Page 1, line 3, after the title, insert the following "**Background of the
Invention**".

Page 1, line 4, please replace the paragraph with the following:

--The present invention relates to a fluid filter suitable for use in an internal
combustion engine.--

Page 1, line 6, please replace the paragraph with the following:

--A conventional fluid filter is shown and described in Utility Model application 299 16 265--.

Page 1, line 13, insert the following title: "**Summary of the Invention**".

Page 1, lines 19-20, please delete this sentence.

Page 3, line 9, insert the following title: "**Brief Description of the Drawings**".

Page 3, line 25, please insert the following title: "**Description of Illustrated Embodiment**".

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1-5, and add new claims 6-9 as follows.

1. (Amended) A fluid filter, comprising a filter housing, a central, approximately tubular component which extends into the interior of the filter, said central component being disposable in an operating position by engaging a projection on the filter housing and being permanently retained in the filter housing, said component being detachable from said projection in a disassembly position such that said component is nondestructively removable from the filter, wherein the component is mounted rotatably around a longitudinal axis in the filter housing, and a retaining component arranged in a rotationally restricted manner within the filter housing, said retaining component being arranged to surround and fix the central component by an interference fit so as not to rotate in the operating position, the central component being rotatable into the disassembly position when the clamping force of the interference fit is exceeded.

2. (Amended) The filter according to claim 1, wherein the central component and the retaining component (10) comprise interacting polygonal contours.
3. (Amended) A fluid filter, comprising a filter housing, a central, approximately tubular component which extends into the interior of the filter, said central component being disposable in an operating position by engaging a projection located in the filter housing and being permanently retained in the filter housing, said component being disengageable from said projection and nondestructively removable from the filter when disposed in a disassembly position, wherein the central component is retained in a positive manner by a retaining component which is screwable onto the filter housing, the retaining component forming the projection.
4. (Amended) A fluid filter according to claim 3, wherein the retaining component (10) comprises a combination component which includes a support body, and multiple functional elements located on the support body.
5. (Amended) A fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional elements comprise one or more screw holes located in a depression accommodating the screw head.
6. (New) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a valve body.
7. (New) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a clip for fixing the central component.
8. (New) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a projection for fixing the central component.

9. (New) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a screw hole for fixing the central component.

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REMARKS

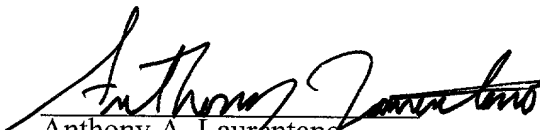
Applicant amends the specification to address minor formal matters, such as introducing appropriate section headers. Applicant also amends the claims to remove multiple dependencies, to provide proper antecedent basis, and to address other matters of form. The foregoing amendments introduce no new matter and are not related to issues of patentability.

Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is respectfully in order and requested.

If there are any questions regarding the amendments to the application, we invite the Examiner to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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TOTAL 2890680

Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

Please amend claims 1-5, and add new claims 6-9 as follows.

1. (Amended) A fluid filter, ~~especially an oil filter for an internal combustion engine,~~ comprising a filter housing, ~~and~~ a central, approximately tubular component which extends into the interior of the filter, said central component being disposable in the an operating position by engaging a projection on the filter housing and being permanently retained in the filter housing, said component being detachable from said projection, ~~and in this in a disassembly position such that said component is being~~ nondestructively removable from the filter, ~~characterized in that wherein the component (6) is mounted~~ rotatably around ~~its~~ a longitudinal axis in the filter housing ~~(2), and~~ a retaining component ~~(10) being~~ arranged in a rotationally restricted manner within the filter housing ~~(2), which said~~ retaining component being arranged to surrounds and fixes the central component ~~(6) by an clamp or locking~~ interference fit so as not to rotate in ~~its the~~ operating position, the central component ~~6~~ being rotatable into ~~its the~~ disassembly position when the clamping ~~or locking~~ force of the interference fit is exceeded.

2. (Amended) The fluid filter according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the central component (6) and the retaining component (10) have~~ comprise interacting polygonal contours.

3. (Amended) A fluid filter, ~~especially an oil filter for an internal combustion engine,~~ comprising a filter housing, ~~and~~ a central, approximately tubular component which extends into the interior of the filter, said central component being disposable in the an operating position by engaging a projection located in the filter housing and being permanently retained in the filter housing, said component being disengageable from said projection and nondestructively removable ~~in this disassembly position~~ from the filter when disposed in a disassembly position, characterized in that wherein the central

component (6) is retained in a positive manner by a retaining component (10) which is screwable onto the filter housing (2), the retaining component (10) forming the projection.

4. (Amended) A fluid filter according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the retaining component (10) ~~is designed as~~ comprises a combination component which includes a support body ~~such as a base plate (11), and multiple functional elements being located on the support body such as valve assemblies (5) with valve bodies, or a clip fixing the central component (6), or a projection or screw holes fixing the central component (6).~~

5. (Amended) A fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional elements characterized in that each comprise one or more screw holes ~~is~~ located in a depression (16) accommodating the screw head.

6. (New) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a valve body.

7. (New) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a clip for fixing the central component.

8. (New) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a projection for fixing the central component.

9. (New) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a screw hole for fixing the central component.